

ing the American economy in the new global economy? If we propose a tax cut, have we paid for it?

I am proud to say that this budget meets all those tests. And I call on the 104th Congress to give it serious consideration and to enact it.

Now I'd like to ask the Vice President to come forward and talk about the specific cuts and consolidations that we have recommended.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building.

Teleconference Remarks With the Crew of the Space Shuttle *Discovery* and an Exchange With Reporters February 6, 1995

The President. Hello.

Comdr. James Wetherbee. Good afternoon.

The President. Good afternoon. I didn't know you were on the line. Congratulations.

Commander Wetherbee. Well, thank you very much, sir. And it's an honor to be talking to you. Thanks for calling.

The President. I'm glad to do it. We're all following you with great anticipation, and we're all so impressed. You know, this really proves, I think, that Russians and Americans can work together and that we can make this international space station project successful. And I can't tell you how much I appreciate all the work that all of you have done to that end.

Commander Wetherbee. Well, we agree, sir. What I kept thinking as we were rendezvousing on *Mir* was it's a great world. They have a beautiful spaceship, and we have a beautiful spaceship built by Americans. We met the people that built their spaceship. They love their space program, and we love our space program, and I think together it will be a lot better.

The President. Well, we're confident that it will. As you know, this whole mission is a number of firsts. You're the first person to ever command our efforts to rendezvous with a Russian space vehicle, and I know that Eileen Collins is the first woman ever to pilot a space shuttle.

So Eileen, I suppose you have literally shown young women all across the world they can fly as high as their dreams will take them.

Astronaut Eileen Collins. Yes. I'd like to say I think this is one of the greatest jobs in the world. And for any young people out there, if you work hard enough, you can always, always reach your dreams.

The President. Well, you certainly proved that. Look at that. We enjoy watching the microphone there. [Laughter]

I want to ask Dr. Harris to pick it up as it flies toward him. I want to—he's going to set another milestone by becoming the first African-American to walk in space. So you'll be floating on air, but be sure you come back.

Astronaut Bernard Harris, Jr. I'm really looking forward to that a couple of days from now, but I know I won't be—I may be the first, but I won't be the last.

The President. No, you won't be the last. We'll have a lot more if we have you as an example.

I'd also like to say something to our Russian partner in space, Vladimir Titov, who is one of the world's most experienced space travelers, and he's the first cosmonaut to see the *Mir* from an American spacecraft. So I'd like to give you a chance to say anything you'd like to the American people, Mr. Titov.

Cosmonaut Vladimir Titov. And good day, Mr. President. Thank you very much. And I'm very happy of the possibility to have this great flight. And right now, our press conference, our organization listened on the Station *Mir*, and the crew on board Station *Mir* sent for you great hello.

The President. Well, thank you very much. I want to say to all of you again, this is very exciting for us. You know, the Vice President's here with me, along with Dan Goldin, and our Science Adviser, Dr. Jack Gibbons, and we have supported this space program so strongly. And it's been, as you know, somewhat controversial in the United States in the past, but I think that people all over our country and all over

the world will be seeing you today and will say, "You know, this is something worth doing." All of you have made us very proud. I can't thank you enough.

Commander Wetherbee. Well, we thank you very much for your support, Mr. President. We know you've done a lot of work over the last several years in getting us this far. There's a lot of people around our country and a lot of people in Russia that we owe a great deal of thanks, and of course it starts right at the very top. So thank you very much for your support.

The President. You're welcome. And of course we want to say hello to Michael and Janice, too, with whom we haven't talked. We're proud of all of you. Have a wonderful time, and come home safe and sound.

Give a speech. We're all—

Astronaut Janice Voss. Thank you. As you saw today, Jim Wetherbee does a great job of flying this vehicle, and we're looking forward to seeing his landing.

The President. I'll bet you are. [Laughter]

Commander Wetherbee. Sir, it will be a very good one, I'm quite sure.

The President. Well, come home to us. We're proud of you. Goodbye.

Commander Wetherbee. Yes, sir. Thank you very much.

[At this point, the teleconference ended, and the President took questions from reporters.]

The President. That's the best connection we've had, I think. Wasn't it?

Q. Would you like to be up there?

The President. You know, I would. That's pretty impressive.

Surgeon General Nominee Foster

Q. How are you going to salvage Dr. Foster's nomination?

The President. Oh, we're going to have hearings, and he's going to go forward. If the facts are no different than I understand them to be, I don't understand why he would even be in trouble.

Q. How hard are you willing to fight for his confirmation?

The President. Well, I'm going to fight for him. Like I said, if the facts are as I understand them to be, here's a man who has delivered, what, 10,000 babies, who was recognized by President Bush for his work in fighting teenage pregnancies and, in the process, reducing the number of abortions. If what he has done is what he has said he has done, I don't think that is disqualifying. And it is, after all, the law of the land.

So I'm going to be—I'm going to be very interested to see how the hearings unfold and what arguments people would give against the person who has plainly devoted his life to bringing babies into the world in a healthy and happy condition and then try to make sure they live successful lives, that they do not have children prematurely, that they do not engage in the kind of conduct that's caused so much trouble in our society today. I'm impressed with his career and with his record, and I think he'll do well.

Baseball Strike

Q. What do you hear from baseball?

The President. We're working—I just keep telling them to play ball. It's time to go. You know, it's just a few hundred folks trying to figure out how to divide nearly \$2 billion. They ought to be able to figure that out in time for the rest of America to enjoy this baseball season.

Q. Do you have any hope that it will be finished tonight?

The President. I just don't know. I don't know. I don't have a recent enough update to know that. But they're working, at least, and talking, and that's hopeful.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:52 p.m. from the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Daniel S. Goldin, Administrator, National Air and Space Administration, and *Discovery* astronaut C. Michael Foale. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Message to the Congress Reporting Budget Rescissions February 6, 1995

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report 23 rescission proposals of budgetary resources, totaling \$1.1 billion. These rescissions, when combined with other discretionary savings proposals contained in the FY 1996 Budget, will reduce FY 1995 budgetary resources by \$2.4 billion.

The proposed rescissions affect the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, and Transportation;

the Environmental Protection Agency; the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; the Small Business Administration; the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board; and the National Science Foundation.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
February 6, 1995.

NOTE: The report detailing the proposed rescissions was published in the *Federal Register* on February 15.

Remarks on the Immigration Policy Initiative and an Exchange With Reporters February 7, 1995

The President. Good morning. Two years ago, when I took office, I was determined to do a better job of dealing with the problem of illegal immigration. About 2 years ago this week, when I discussed with Janet Reno the possibility of her becoming Attorney General, we had a talk about this, and for the last 2 years we have been hard at work to try to fix a system that everyone agreed had serious problems.

The Vice President and I have just been briefed by Attorney General Reno; Doris Meissner, the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization Service; our Secretary of Labor, Bob Reich; Maria Echaveste, the Director of the Wage and Hour Division of the Labor Department; Silvestre Reyes, Chief Border Patrol Agent of the El Paso Sector; Gus de la Vina, the Director of the Western Region of the Immigration and Naturalization Service; Doug Crum, the U.S. Border Patrol Chief; and George Weise, our Customs Commissioner.

After our meeting, I signed a Presidential directive to the heads of all executive departments instructing them to very quickly expand and strengthen our program to reduce illegal immigration in four key areas: first, protecting our borders; second, protecting the interests of our workers in the workplace; third, removing more

criminal aliens; and fourth, providing more assistance to the States which are burdened with the problem of illegal immigration.

For example, I've asked the Attorney General to increase those elements of our Border Patrol strategy that are proving most effective, including the use of helicopters, night scopes, and all-terrain vehicles. I've asked the members of the Cabinet to create for the first time a national detention and removal plan to dramatically increase the identification and removal of deportable illegal aliens. These are just a few examples, and of course you'll get more in a moment when the people behind me give a more extensive background briefing.

One of the cornerstones of our fight against illegal immigration has been a get-tough policy at our borders. We initiated Operation Hold the Line at El Paso, Operation Gatekeeper in San Diego, and Operation Safeguard in Arizona, all with one clear intention, to secure the Southwest border. As we speak, these initiatives are making a substantial difference. Illegal immigration is down; crime is down. And my budget in immigration strategy builds on that success. Here are the elements of the initiative:

First, I have asked Congress for an additional \$1 billion to fight illegal immigration in the